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[To be continued.]

XLIII.—*Information respecting Botanical Travellers.*

UNIO ITINERARIA.

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In September 1838, the following additional information was printed in German and circulated among the friends of the *Unio Itineraria*.

The travels of M. Schimper in Abyssinia are still prosecuted. The collections which he has made in that country, consisting chiefly of dried plants, were deposited at the date of his last letter (April 1838) in fifteen chests, and were lying at Adoa, the place of his temporary sojourn. The choice was offered him, whether to proceed to Europe, carrying his collections with him, or to remain in Abyssinia with the object of exploring the high mountainous country of Semea and the valleys of Schoho. In the latter case, he must leave the treasures that he had already amassed in Adoa, as the heavy charges attendant on their despatch to Massava on the Red Sea and thence to Egypt would exhaust all his funds, and forbid his prosecuting the aforesaid researches in Abyssinia. His decision has been to pursue his way to those districts, hitherto unexplored, which lie under the special jurisdiction of Prince Ubie; and this great chief, mollified by petitions and presents, exempts M. Schimper from the decree of banishment recently passed against all Europeans, and which hastened from Adoa the missionaries Blumhardt and Isenberg, with whom our traveller had been residing there, and who had shown him much kindness. These estimable individuals confirm to the fullest extent the statement that Schimper has sent us respecting the value of his collections, and also speak most highly of his exertions. Hitherto, M. Schimper's labours have been confined to the moderately elevated ground that lies about Adoa; but if he can also investigate the high mountain ranges, a most interesting epoch will take place in the annals of botanical research with respect to Abyssinia. This consideration and the desire to perfect his labours induced M. Schimper to expose himself to new fatigues and dangers, through which we hope that his previous experience and the sound constitution that he possesses will enable him to pass unharmed.

The most essential requisite is now that the traveller should be furnished with fresh remittances, so that on his return from the journey in hand, he may be enabled to incur the expense of despatching his collections. The removal of these numerous packages and the permission to forward them over a considerable extent of coun-

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try must be obtained by making numerous presents to Prince Ubie and his subaltern officers, petty chieftains, &c. The cost of travelling with goods to the Red Sea is likewise very heavy. Some little provision has been already made, according to our former request, to meet these expenses; and here we beg to tender our thanks for the promptitude with which many of the members of the *Unio* have come forward, so that (including a contribution from our Government to the amount of 300 florins) we have already been enabled to devote 6000 florins to the object of this journey. About 2000 florins more will probably be required, and we therefore particularly look to those members of the *Unio* who have as yet contributed nothing on this occasion, or only subscribed the simple and customary sum of 30 florins, and earnestly request that they will now come forward with contributions of money. Such friends of botany and well-wishers to our cause as have not yet been connected with this institution, we beg to inform that by subscriptions of 30, 60, 90, 120, and 130 Rhenish florins (65, 130, 195, 260, and 300 francs) they may look to receive (if no peculiar disaster occurs) respectively 200, 400, 600, 800 and 1200 species of dried plants from Abyssinia, or other natural productions, for details respecting which we must refer them to our printed appeal of January of this year. The many novelties that rewarded Schimper's journey in Arabia, particularly the province of Hedsches, entitle us to entertain high expectations from his labours in Abyssinia. We particularly recommend the subject of Schimper's journey to the attention of the friends of natural science who are to meet this month at Fribourg, and only regret that we cannot personally attend and urge the subject.

The present opportunity permits us to mention that some small collections remain unsold from the former journeys, viz.

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| 1st. <i>Arabian Plants</i> , collections of 200 species at 30 florins (65 francs.) | |
| ————— | 100 ————— 15 florins (33 francs.) |
| 2nd. <i>N. American Plants</i> , (Ohio district) col. of 200 spe. at 24 fl. (50 fr.) | |
| 3rd. <i>Georgio-Caucasian Plants</i> , col. of 320 species at 40 florins (86 francs.) | |
| ————— | 200 ————— 25 florins. This is the fifth delivery. |

Lastly, we have undertaken the commission of disposing of collections made from the Flora of Portugal and the Azores this summer by MM. Guthrick and Hochsteller, jun., in the environs of Lisbon, (the greater part however at the Azores,) during a journey which these naturalists made at their own expense. Purchasers may have either complete collections of 200—300 species at 12 florins (25 fr.), or smaller ones of 100 to 150 species at 10 to 15 florins, the latter

It must be observed containing a beautiful suite of the Lisbon Flora, and a great number of rare and novel species; for instance, some undescribed *Carices*, a new *Laurus*, a new *Vaccinium*, a large-flowered new species of *Euphrasia*, an undescribed *Frankenia* and *Veronica*, together with several recent discoveries, the fruits of the Rev. Mr. Lowe's labours in Madeira. For these, subscriptions are received of from 10 to 36 florins (22 to 75 francs, which must be sent free of postage), and for which the collections will be transmitted early in the following year.

PROFESSOR HOCHSTETTER.

DR. STEUDEL.

Esslingen, Sept. 10, 1838.

We learn by letters lately received from Switzerland, that Dr. Brunner of Berne has returned from the Cape de Verd Islands with a collection of from 500 to 600 species of plants, which it is his intention to offer to botanists at the rate of about 2*l.* the hundred species.

Mr. Gardner is prosecuting his botanical researches in Brazil with unabated ardour. At p. 463 of vol. i. we mentioned his arrival at Pernambuco, and gave some account of the vegetation of that district, which he had communicated in a letter dated Jan. 24, 1838.

Since that period several letters have reached us from this enterprising naturalist (the last dated in July of this year), from which we extract the following passages.

“Maçêio, Province of Alagoas, April 5, 1838.

“I am highly gratified to hear that my collections from the Organ Mountains give so much satisfaction. After the labour bestowed on collecting and preserving them, this intelligence becomes doubly agreeable. It is peculiarly pleasant to me to know that the *Cactus* which I named after my noble and generous patron the Duke of Bedford is doing so well in the Glasgow Botanic Garden. It is a remarkably pretty species, and will soon, I trust, blossom with you; the specimen which I first saw, and of which the discovery gave me more delight than I can describe, was adorned with upwards of 200 flowers.

“Since I last wrote to you I have done and suffered a good deal, having been within an inch of the grave from a severe attack of dysentery while on a voyage up the Rio San Francisco. On the 30th of January I left Pernambuco in a canoe for this place, where I pur-

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posed to spend two months, till the rainy season should set in, and then proceed into the interior. The Rio San Francisco being so near, I determined on visiting it, knowing that in these tropical countries the margins of rivers generally afford good botanizing. After collecting a few plants in the vicinity of this place, I embarked in a *Jangada* for Pebá, a village five leagues to the north of the mouth of the San Francisco river, the heavy surf which breaks on the bar not allowing small craft to approach nearer, and from thence made my way in a bullock cart to the village of Piassabussa, situated on the north bank of the river, and two leagues from its outlet. It was night when I arrived, but next morning I was highly delighted with the sight of that magnificent stream, then discharging, as usual at that season, its greatest quantity of water, and more swollen by the late rains than it has been since the year 1792. The flat country on both sides was inundated to a great extent, and hundreds of families obliged to quit their dwellings, which were either carried away or quite submerged. From Piassabussa I again embarked in a canoe for the Villa do Peñedo, situated five leagues higher up, and there I spent a few days in the house of the Juiz Derita, a very excellent kind man, a lover of science and particularly fond of botany, although he attends more to the theoretical than the practical part of it. My great wish was to reach the magnificent falls, nearly 200 miles nearer the source of the river, 60 miles of which must be travelled overland. Every one dissuaded me from the attempt, particularly at this season, when the ground is so much burned up that it is impossible to find grass and water for horses. Still I determined to proceed, and hired a canoe to convey me as far as the stream was navigable; and just as we had reached this point, 100 miles up, close to the Ilha do San Pedro, a large island in the river, a tremendous storm overtook us in the middle of the stream. Such a hurricane I never witnessed. Before we could reach the lee side of the river, there more than a league broad, our canoe had nearly upset, and would certainly have done so, when we must all have been drowned, but for the exertions of my black servant and myself, for the crew were so terrified as to lose all presence of mind, and they gave no assistance; and the night was dark, the river broad, and the current strong. The thunder and lightning and rain exceeded all I could imagine. Drenched to the skin we reached the shore, and remained till daybreak in our wet clothes, and the consequence to me was a severe attack of dysentery. For several days there was no prospect of my recovery, and more than once I attempted to write what I considered would be my last letters to Sir W. J. Hooker and

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